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New Mexico Labor Market Review

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HIGHLIGHTS

New Mexico's labor market exhibited relatively normal seasonal changes in November, a pattern generally in evidence over the past several months. The State's unemployment rate remained unchanged from October at 6.9 percent. The jobless rate has remained in the 7.1 to 6.7 range since June's seasonal peak of 8.1 percent. In contrast, the labor market nationwide deteriorated significantly in November as the U. S. unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) climbed from 7.5 to 7.9 percent, a full percentage point higher than the New Mexico unemployment rate. Nationally, the manufacturing industry experienced a sharp employment reduction in November, while retail trade failed to report the strong gain usual for this time of year. In manufacturing, particularly hard hit by layoffs were the fabricated metal, electrical equipment and transportation equipment sectors.

In New Mexico, most major industries reported normal employment movement for the month, with the exceptions of an above-average increase in trade and a larger-than-usual job loss in manufacturing. Trade employment can normally be expected to rise with the start of the holiday season, but this November the industry was helped by the opening of several new retail facilities around the state. In manufacturing the lumber and electronic equipment sectors continued to experience layoffs during November. These two sectors have now lost a total of 800 jobs over the last 12 months. The largest manufacturing sector decline in November, -500 in food, is expected this time of year as the chili processing season comes to a close.

Want Consumer Price Index Information?
see page 8

NOVEMBER SUMMARY 1/

	Prel	Revised		Change From	
	Nov 1981	Oct 1981	Nov 1980	Oct 1981	Nov 1980
Civilian Labor Force	564,700	567,500	542,900	-2,800	+21,800
Employment	525,800	528,300	501,700	-2,500	+24,100
Unemployment	38,900	39,200	41,200	- 300	- 2,300
Rate (Actual)	6.9	6.9	7.6		

1/ Estimates of employed persons by place of residence.

NEW MEXICO

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)

(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	Prelim NOV 1981	Revised OCT 1981	Revised NOV 1980	NOV Change From OCT 1981	NOV Change From NOV 1980
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	469,100	470,600	461,200	-1,500	+7,900
MINING	30,600	30,500	29,900	+ 100	+ 700
Metal Mining	9,000	9,000	10,500	0	-1,500
Bituminous Coal, Quarrying and Nonmetallic Mining	5,300	5,400	5,400	- 100	- 100
Oil and Gas Extraction	16,300	16,100	14,000	+ 200	+2,300
CONSTRUCTION	30,600	31,100	28,500	- 500	+2,100
MANUFACTURING	31,900	32,800	34,000	- 900	-2,100
Durable Goods	19,200	19,500	20,300	- 300	-1,100
Lumber and Wood Products	2,200	2,400	2,600	- 200	- 400
Elec. and Electronic Equipment	3,200	3,400	3,600	- 200	- 400
Transportation Equipment	3,700	3,600	3,800	+ 100	- 100
Other Durable Goods	10,100	10,100	10,300	0	- 200
Nondurable Goods	12,700	13,300	13,700	- 600	-1,000
Food and Kindred Products	4,000	4,500	4,300	- 500	- 300
Textiles and Apparel	3,400	3,500	3,800	- 100	- 400
Other Nondurable Goods	5,300	5,300	5,600	0	- 300
TRANSPORTATION and PUBLIC UTILITIES	29,300	29,300	29,100	0	+ 200
Railroad Transportation	3,000	3,000	3,100	0	- 100
Trucking and Warehousing	5,700	5,700	5,500	0	+ 200
Other Transportation	3,900	3,800	3,700	+ 100	+ 200
Communication	7,400	7,500	7,700	- 100	- 300
Elec., Gas and Sanitary Services	9,300	9,300	9,100	0	+ 200
WHOLESALE and RETAIL TRADE	108,800	107,600	104,200	+1,200	+4,600
Wholesale Trade	21,900	21,800	21,600	+ 100	+ 300
Durable Goods	13,000	13,000	13,000	0	0
Nondurable Goods	8,900	8,800	8,600	+ 100	+ 300
Retail Trade	86,900	85,800	82,600	+1,100	+4,300
General Merchandise Stores	12,200	11,500	11,000	+ 700	+1,200
Food Stores	12,400	12,300	11,700	+ 100	+ 700
Auto Dlrs and Service Stations	11,500	11,600	12,300	- 100	- 800
Eating and Drinking Places	29,400	29,200	26,800	+ 200	+2,600
Other Retail Trade	21,400	21,200	20,800	+ 200	+ 600
FINANCE, INSURANCE and REAL ESTATE	21,200	21,100	20,900	+ 100	+ 300
Banking	7,400	7,400	7,100	0	+ 300
Ins. Carriers, Agents and Brokers	5,500	5,500	5,400	0	+ 100
Other Finance, Ins. and Real Estate	8,300	8,200	8,400	+ 100	- 100
SERVICES	90,100	91,300	88,600	-1,200	+1,500
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	9,700	9,800	9,600	- 100	+ 100
Personal Services	4,500	4,600	4,400	- 100	+ 100
Business Services	19,500	19,700	18,200	- 200	+1,300
Health Services	22,300	22,600	21,200	- 300	+1,100
Social Services	7,000	7,300	9,100	- 300	-2,100
Membership Organizations	4,800	4,900	4,800	- 100	0
Other Services	22,300	22,400	21,300	- 100	+1,000
GOVERNMENT	126,600	126,900	126,000	- 300	+ 600
Federal	29,000	29,300	28,800	- 300	+ 200
State 2/	45,100	45,200	45,300	- 100	- 200
Local	52,500	52,400	51,900	+ 100	+ 600

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

2/ Includes other state employees working in New Mexico.

ALBUQUERQUE AREA (BERNALILLO AND SANDOVAL COUNTIES)

HIGHLIGHTS

Observing preliminary November data, it appears that Albuquerque thus far has not participated in the national recession. While the U. S. unemployment rate rose from 7.1 percent in November 1980 to 7.9 percent in November 1981, the Albuquerque rate for the same period dropped from 8.0 percent to 7.1 percent. The national unemployment upward trend began this August and has accelerated since then. On the other hand, Albuquerque unemployment has shown only the usual seasonal movements in recent months, trending neither up nor down. Employment in Albuquerque grew slowly over the past twelve months, but some industries, particularly manufacturing and government, have posted losses recently.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment decreased by 1,000 jobs in November. The most significant, if not largest, loss was in manufacturing, down 400 for the month and 1,300 below a year ago. Most of the thirty-day decline was in durable goods, particularly construction materials and electronics. Decreases in nondurables were centered in food products and apparel manufacturing. While manufacturing comprised 9.6 percent of all nonfarm payroll jobs a year ago, the ratio gradually dropped to stand at 8.9 percent in November 1981. Large manufacturing plants are being constructed and will give manufacturing a large boost eventually, but closures and temporary layoffs will hold employment down during the months immediately ahead. Construction was off by approximately 200 jobs in November. Moderate losses are typical in this industry between October and November. On a longer term basis, construction now at 11,700 is substantially below the 15,100 recorded for November in the years 1978 and 1979. On the somewhat brighter side, employment in the industry has recently begun to move above year ago levels. Scattered losses reduced services by 500 jobs in November. However, industry employment remained 1,800 ahead of a year ago, with business and health services the major contributors.

Wholesale and retail trade sectors provided almost all of the monthly employment gains among specific industries listed in the table on page 4. Most of this demand for workers was related to seasonal hiring for holiday sales. Such hiring is usually predominant in general merchandise stores, apparel stores, miscellaneous retail trade, and food stores. December should see even larger seasonal gains in trade.

NOVEMBER SUMMARY 1/

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Nov 1981	Oct 1981	Nov 1980	Oct 1981	Nov 1980
Civilian Labor Force	208,500	208,400	201,800	+ 100	+6,700
Employment	193,800	193,700	185,600	+ 100	+8,200
Unemployment	14,700	14,700	16,200	0	-1,500
Rate (Actual)	7.1	7.1	8.0		

1/ Estimates of employed persons by place of residence.

ALBUQUERQUE AREA (BERNALILLO AND SANDOVAL COUNTIES)

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)

(Prepared in Cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	Prelim NOV 1981	Revised OCT 1981	Revised NOV 1980	NOV Change From OCT 1981	NOV Change From NOV 1980
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	188,300	189,300	186,700	-1,000	+1,600
CONSTRUCTION	11,700	11,900	11,500	- 200	+ 200
MANUFACTURING	16,700	17,100	18,000	- 400	-1,300
Durable Goods	11,200	11,500	12,300	- 300	-1,100
Nondurable Goods	5,500	5,600	5,700	- 100	- 200
TRANSPORTATION and PUBLIC UTILITIES	11,800	11,800	12,000	0	- 200
Transportation	5,500	5,500	5,500	0	0
Communication	3,900	3,900	4,300	0	- 400
Electric, Gas and Sanitary Services	2,400	2,400	2,200	0	+ 200
WHOLESALE and RETAIL TRADE	48,600	48,100	47,100	+ 500	+1,500
Wholesale Trade	13,000	13,000	12,700	0	+ 300
Durable Goods	8,700	8,700	8,600	0	+ 100
Nondurable Goods	4,300	4,300	4,100	0	+ 200
Retail Trade	35,600	35,100	34,400	+ 500	+1,200
General Merchandise Stores	4,700	4,500	4,400	+ 200	+ 300
Food Stores	4,300	4,200	4,100	+ 100	+ 200
Auto Dlrs and Service Stations	4,100	4,100	4,300	0	- 200
Eating and Drinking Places	12,600	12,600	11,700	0	+ 900
Other Retail Trade	9,900	9,700	9,900	+ 200	0
FINANCE, INSURANCE and REAL ESTATE	11,000	11,000	11,000	0	0
Banking	3,000	2,900	2,800	+ 100	+ 200
Ins Carriers, Agents and Brokers	3,400	3,500	3,400	- 100	0
Other Finance, Ins. and Real Estate	4,600	4,600	4,800	0	- 200
SERVICES and MISCELLANEOUS	45,600	46,100	43,800	- 500	+1,800
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	2,900	2,900	2,700	0	+ 200
Health Services	10,600	10,800	10,100	- 200	+ 500
Social Services	2,600	2,700	2,500	- 100	+ 100
Membership Organizations	1,600	1,600	1,500	0	+ 100
Other Services and Mining	27,900	28,100	27,000	- 200	+ 900
GOVERNMENT	42,900	43,300	43,300	- 400	- 400
Federal	12,600	12,700	12,200	- 100	+ 400
State	12,200	12,400	12,500	- 200	- 300
Local	18,100	18,200	18,600	- 100	- 500

1/ *Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.*

LAS CRUCES AREA (DONA ANA COUNTY)

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)

(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	Prelim NOV 1981	Revised OCT 1981	Revised NOV 1980	NOV Change From OCT 1981	NOV Change From NOV 1980
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	30,250	30,600	29,850	-350	+400
CONSTRUCTION	1,625	1,650	1,750	- 25	-125
MANUFACTURING	2,575	2,850	2,500	-275	+ 75
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,225	1,200	1,150	+ 25	+ 75
Transportation	550	525	525	+ 25	+ 25
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Serv	675	675	625	0	+ 50
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	5,600	5,525	5,425	+ 75	+175
Wholesale Trade	850	825	825	+ 25	+ 25
Retail Trade	4,750	4,700	4,600	+ 50	+150
General Merchandise Stores	750	725	575	+ 25	+175
Food Stores	625	625	575	0	+ 50
Auto Dlrs & Serv Stations	775	775	775	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	1,600	1,550	1,675	+ 50	- 75
Other Retail Trade	1,000	1,025	1,000	- 25	0
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	1,200	1,225	1,175	- 25	+ 25
SERVICES & MISCELLANEOUS	4,200	4,250	4,125	- 50	+ 75
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	650	650	650	0	0
Business Services	725	725	725	0	0
Health Services	700	700	650	0	+ 50
Social Services	400	400	450	0	- 50
Other Services	1,725	1,775	1,650	- 50	+ 75
GOVERNMENT	13,825	13,900	13,725	- 75	+100
Federal	4,050	4,275	4,300	-225	-250
State	5,450	5,375	5,400	+ 75	+ 50
Local	4,325	4,250	4,025	+ 75	+300

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS ESTIMATES

PRODUCTION, CONSTRUCTION AND NONSUPERVISORY EMPLOYEES

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	NOV 1981	OCT 1981	NOV 1980	NOV 1981	OCT 1981	NOV 1980	NOV 1981	OCT 1981	NOV 1980
NEW MEXICO									
MINING	$448.51	$445.09	$413.16	43.8	44.2	44.0	$10.24	$10.07	$9.39
CONSTRUCTION	360.88	386.05	328.59	34.6	37.7	34.3	10.43	10.24	9.58
MANUFACTURING	267.85	257.04	243.60	39.8	37.8	40.6	6.73	6.80	6.00
Durable Goods	291.67	281.97	268.09	39.9	39.0	41.5	7.31	7.23	6.46
Nondurable Goods	224.76	212.53	200.34	39.5	35.6	38.9	5.69	5.97	5.15
COMM & UTILITIES	340.98	366.70	332.88	42.2	39.6	41.3	8.08	9.26	8.06
TRADE *	230.76	230.38	231.26	34.7	34.8	35.2	6.65	6.62	6.57
BANKING	188.18	173.16	185.25	38.8	37.0	39.0	4.85	4.68	4.75
ALBUQUERQUE									
MANUFACTURING	$280.19	$271.74	$255.01	40.2	38.6	41.6	$6.97	$7.04	$6.13

* *Excludes Eating and Drinking Places*

NOTE: *Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not only changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates, but also such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differentials. The work week information relates to the average hours for which pay was received, and is different from standard or scheduled hours due to absenteeism, labor turnover, part-time work, overtime work, etc.*

STATEWIDE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

ALBUQUERQUE AREA - Schwartzman Packing Company closed its Albuquerque meat packing plant in December resulting in the layoff of approximately 150 workers. Mountain Bell plans to transfer into Albuquerque approximately 130 jobs presently located in various cities around the state. Bids will be sought in late February for construction of a new three-floor, 200-bed addition to the Bernalillo County Detention Center in downtown Albuquerque. Two firms, Sperry Flight Systems and General Electric, are scheduled to receive defense contracts to manufacture parts for the B-1 bomber and a new helicopter under the defense appropriations bill currently before Congress. Sperry currently employs about 300 persons at its new plant which opened last summer and the company anticipates having about 450 employed by March 1983. GE's Albuquerque plant presently has about 1,600 employees and the new defense contract's affect on its workforce is expected to be negligible. Groundbreaking was held in late November on a $2.8 million housing project in the North Barelas area for low income senior citizens. The new 48,000 square foot Safeway supermarket now under construction at Candelaria and Juan Tabo is scheduled to be completed this March. An Albuquerque Mexican food manufacturer, El Encanto Incorporated, is planning to locate a $3 million plant at the Barelas Industrial Park in the South Valley. El Encanto, Inc. which manufactures Bueno brand Mexican foods, would be the first company to locate in the park. The State Highway Department has awarded a $5.9 million contract for replacement of the Central Avenue bridge over the Rio Grande. Also awarded was a $3.8 million contract to widen the Juan Tabo Interchange on Interstate 40. The Veterans Administration has awarded a $3.45 million contract to W. C. Kruger and Associates for design of its proposed new clinical services wing at the Albuquerque VA Medical Center.

ALAMOGORDO/RUIDOSO AREA - The Blue Bell Wrangler Mens-wear Division manufacturing plant in Alamogordo closed in December resulting in the layoff of about 125 workers. General economic conditions was the reason for the closure of the plant which had been in operation for the past five years. Sherwood Incorporated officials are planning to build a new manufacturing plant in Alamogordo's industrial park beginning in January. Sherwood began operations in temporary facilities in Alamogordo this October. The firm produces electronic wiring devices and is presently employing approximately 50 persons. Work is continuing on the 228,000 square foot White Sands Shopping Mall located north of Alamogordo. The mall should be completed by this March and major tenants will be J. C. Penny and Beall Brothers Department Stores. A $13 million condominium project is being planned for Ruidoso by former Texas Gov. John Connally, former Texas Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes and Houston developer Joe McDermott. The project is scheduled to include 105 two and three bedroom condominiums to be built beginning this spring near Ruidoso Downs Race Track. A local developer is planning a 16 acre $4 million amusement park near Ruidoso Downs.

ARTESIA/CARLSBAD AREA - Luther Construction Company has been awarded a $1.7 million contract to build a 64-bed nursing home in Carlsbad which will be operated by Landsun Homes. The new facility, to be called Health Services Center, will be located next to the present Landsun Homes nursing home and should be completed by the end of 1982. Artesia General Hospital is now operating from their new $5.2 million facility.

BELEN/SOCORRO AREA - Work is underway on a new 34,000 square foot Smiths Food and Drug Store near Los Lunas. The new store is expected to be open in June, 1982.

CLOVIS/PORTALES AREA - The Levi Strauss plant in Clovis closed down from December 17 to January 4, affecting approximately 240 workers. The area peanut harvest this year was described by local farmers as "average" and not as good as the 1980 crop. Early hail and wind damage and late rains prevented peanut farmers from having an excellent crop.

DEMING/LORDSBURG AREA - Deming Electronics, a branch of Sparton Southwest Incorporated is scheduled to begin a printed circuit-board assembly operation, employing about 10 persons, in the former Spring City Knitting plant in early January.

FARMINGTON AREA - The Navajo tribe is studying the possibility of building a $100 million railroad spur running from the Gallup area to the San Juan Generating Station west of Farmington to be used basically for coal shipment. Construction of the railroad could possibly begin within the next 18 months. Jaynes Corporation was awarded a $3.8 million contract to build an office building in downtown Farmington which will be used to consolidate most of the federal offices in the city. A new $2 million, 44,000 square foot Sack N' Save grocery store is scheduled to be constructed in Farmington beginning in January. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in November for the new 100,000 square foot Shiprock Shopping Center. The center should be open by early 1983 and the major tenants will be Montgomery Ward and Safeway.

GALLUP/GRANTS AREA - State Corrections Department officials have chosen a 600-acre site near Grants as the location of the $19 million prison funded by the 1981 State Legislature. The facility will include an 80-bed womens center and a 144-bed intake classification center, employing approximately 275 workers. Work on the prison is scheduled to begin in April 1982, with completion targeted for January 1984. A $3.6 million expansion project for Cibola General Hospital in Grants is being planned by hospital officials. Financing arrangements for the expansion are presently underway and construction time is expected to be 18 months to two years. A 36,600 square foot food store, Big Save Supermarket, recently opened in Milan.

HOBBS/LOVINGTON AREA - General Telephone Company of the Southwest has begun a $13 million improvement program for its Lea County operations. Included in the program is a 12,000 square foot expansion of the Hobbs switching center. Work has started in Hobbs on a new $1.25 million building for ARCO Oil and Gas Company. The contract for the estimated $4.4 million Lea County Jail in Lovington is expected to be let for bid this April and a late 1983 completion date is anticipated, according to county officials. Work should start in January on a new 26,000 square foot Furrs supermarket in Lovington. Permian Basin oilwell drilling activity is continuing to break all time records with Lea County leading all Basin areas with approximately 60 rigs operating. Shell Oil Company has completed and put into operation its $40 million North Hobbs Waterflood Unit which will result in production of an estimated additional 55 million barrels of oil during the life of the project.

LAS CRUCES AREA - A 60 unit Super 8 Motel being constructed on La Pasado Lane in Las Cruces should open in February. White Sands Missile Range awarded approximately $8 million in contracts to local businesses during the third quarter of 1981. Las Cruces Medical Associates has submitted an application for a State Certificate of Need to build a $2 million Outpatient Surgical Center. The new medical center, if built, would create about 21 new jobs. Construction was completed in November on the $7.8 million Powey Mud Springs Dam, a part of the Truth or Consequences - Williamsburg Watershed and Flood Protection Plan. Peter Kiewit and Sons Company was the contractor for the project which began in May, 1980. The State Corrections Department is proposing locating a 64-bed minimum security prison at Elephant Butte Lake State Park. The prison would provide maintenance for the Park under a program to teach the prisoners how to work in the outside world before being released. The prison proposal will go before the State Legislature in January.

LAS VEGAS AREA - A large fiber board manufacturing plant which would employ approximately 200 persons is planned for the Las Vegas area. The new plant, to be called Montana de Fibre, is a joint venture of

Frontier Fiber and Meadows Resources, Incorporated, two New Mexico corporations. Construction on the facility, which will be located north of Las Vegas, is expected to begin in March or April of 1982 and the plant could start initial operations by the fall of 1982. A Texas based firm, Fairchild Metal Fabricators, Inc., has announced plans to locate a $1.5 million manufacturing plant in the new Dee Bibb Industrial Park south of Las Vegas. The Fairchild facility will employ about 20 persons, mostly certified welders. Allsups Convenience Stores Incorporated is opening 4 new stores in Las Vegas and one store in Mora. Approximately 14 persons will be employed at each new store. T. Brown Construction Incorporated of Albuquerque was awarded a $6.4 million contract for highway work on I-25 north of Las Vegas.

LOS ALAMOS AREA - Los Alamos National Laboratory has initiated a voluntary separation program for its employees in order to reduce the Labs workforce by 200 to 400 workers due to budgetary restraints. Lab officials are hopeful that this program will enable the facility to avoid significant involuntary layoffs in the near future.

ROSWELL AREA - Goehring Meat Incorporated, a California meat packing firm, purchased the main plant of the closed Glover Packing Company facility. Goehring officials did not disclose their future plans for the operation. A Georgia-based restaurant chain, Western Sizzlin Steak House, is locating a 222 seating capacity eatery in Roswell. The restaurant, presently under construction on North Main Street, is scheduled to open in early February. American Linen Company is expanding into a new 18,000 square foot facility, resulting in approximately 10 new jobs.

SANTA FE AREA - Mountain Bell is relocating to Santa Fe approximately 70 jobs now located in Farmington and Taos as part of a centralization of administrative functions.

SILVER CITY AREA - Phelps Dodge Corporation suspended operations at their Grant County copper mine the last two weeks in December and plan to layoff approximately 40 workers in early January due to current low ore prices. The Christmas shutdown affected approximately 700 employees. Work has begun on a new 100,000 square foot shopping center in Silver City which will contain a 40,000 square foot T. G. and Y. Family Store.

TAOS AREA - The underground expansion project at the Molycorp Molybdenum mine in Questa is continuing. Molycorp is employing approximately 720 persons and another 200 are employed by contractors for the expansion project. The mine is expected to employ about 900 workers by the fall of 1982 and about 1,000 when the new underground mine is in full operation by 1983.

TUCUMCARI AREA - Construction work is continuing on the city waste water treatment plant and the addition to Citizens Bank. The new Childress and Associates duffle bag manufacturing plant is now employing approximately 45 workers.

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U. S. Consumer Price Index

November 1981 CPI-U - 280.7
(Base 1967=100)
CPI-U - 280.4

CPI-U - All Urban Consumers
CPI-W - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

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Want Consumer Price Index Information?

Bureau of Labor Statistics Regional Commissioner Bryan Richey will speak at the UNM Robert O. Anderson School of Business on January 12, 1982. His presentation on "Current Price Index Issues and Recent Developments" is set for 1:30 p.m. in the first floor conference room, Room 112 in the west wing. The event is open to the public without charge. It is jointly sponsored by this department and the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, U.N.M.

OFFICIAL LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

	PRELIMINARY NOVEMBER 1981 [1]				REVISED OCTOBER 1981 [1]				REVISED NOVEMBER 1980 [1]			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	564,736	525,801	38,935	6.9	567,486	528,268	39,218	6.9	542,898	501,710	41,188	7.6
ALBUQUERQUE SMSA [2]	208,478	193,826	14,652	7.0	208,360	193,652	14,708	7.1	201,752	185,600	16,152	8.0
LAS CRUCES SMSA [3]	34,705	32,381	2,324	6.7	35,656	33,126	2,530	7.1	33,820	30,924	2,896	8.6
Catron	1,079	940	139	12.9	1,145	1,002	143	12.5	898	829	69	7.7
Chaves	21,677	20,637	1,040	4.8	21,665	20,613	1,052	4.9	21,102	20,033	1,069	5.1
Colfax	5,911	5,567	344	5.8	6,203	5,835	368	5.9	5,880	5,477	403	6.9
Curry	14,438	13,589	849	5.9	14,609	13,803	806	5.5	14,238	13,277	961	6.7
De Baca	1,037	999	38	3.7	1,079	1,059	20	1.9	1,049	1,027	22	2.1
Eddy	22,131	21,244	887	4.0	22,649	21,434	1,215	5.4	20,452	19,529	923	4.5
Grant	11,929	11,097	832	7.0	11,694	10,780	914	7.8	9,366	8,709	657	7.0
Guadalupe	1,501	1,385	116	7.7	1,540	1,416	124	8.1	1,631	1,448	183	11.2
Harding	590	577	13	2.2	650	634	16	2.5	579	560	19	3.3
Hidalgo	2,308	2,199	109	4.7	2,385	2,296	89	3.7	2,275	2,168	107	4.7
Lea	31,305	30,332	973	3.1	31,189	30,098	1,091	3.5	28,016	27,247	769	2.7
Lincoln	6,038	5,864	174	2.9	6,153	5,959	194	3.2	5,940	5,685	255	4.3
Los Alamos	10,405	10,180	225	2.2	10,441	10,206	325	2.3	9,998	9,553	445	4.5
Luna	4,863	4,499	364	7.5	5,503	5,099	404	7.3	5,065	4,545	520	10.3
McKinley	18,739	17,042	1,697	9.1	18,778	16,986	1,792	9.5	18,069	16,444	1,625	9.0
Mora	1,111	753	358	32.2	1,153	839	314	27.2	1,147	804	343	29.9
Otero	13,205	12,224	981	7.4	13,219	12,217	1,002	7.6	13,150	12,194	956	7.3
Quay	4,914	4,592	322	6.6	5,117	4,834	283	5.5	5,254	4,901	353	6.7
Rio Arriba	10,118	8,347	1,771	17.5	10,123	8,512	1,611	15.9	10,319	8,454	1,865	18.1
Roosevelt	7,755	7,545	210	2.7	7,871	7,700	171	2.2	7,558	7,328	230	3.0
San Juan	39,681	36,448	3,233	8.1	38,886	35,708	3,178	8.2	35,470	32,666	2,804	7.9
San Miguel	8,149	7,362	787	9.7	8,201	7,441	760	9.3	8,084	7,217	867	10.7
Santa Fe	35,737	33,599	2,138	6.0	35,538	33,527	2,011	5.7	35,022	32,612	2,410	6.9
Sierra	3,259	3,131	128	3.9	3,238	3,114	124	3.8	2,774	2,693	81	2.9
Socorro	4,592	4,234	358	7.8	4,719	4,349	370	7.8	4,340	4,036	304	7.0
Taos	9,620	8,284	1,336	13.9	9,665	8,436	1,229	12.7	8,678	7,478	1,200	13.8
Torrance	2,231	2,151	80	3.6	2,344	2,285	59	2.5	2,035	1,913	122	6.0
Union	2,198	2,114	84	3.8	2,355	2,265	90	3.8	2,113	2,033	80	3.8
Valencia, Cibola [4]	25,032	22,659	2,373	9.5	25,358	23,043	2,315	9.1	26,824	24,326	2,498	9.3

1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2/ Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties.

3/ Dona Ana County.

4/ Estimates for Cibola County are not yet available.

New Mexico Labor Market Review

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HIGHLIGHTS

December was generally a good month for the New Mexico economy, according to preliminary labor force estimates; however, initial indications are that January's estimates may not be as encouraging. The number of unemployed declined by 2,300 persons during December to a total of 36,700, the lowest level of joblessness in the State since late in 1979. New Mexico's unemployment rate dropped from 6.9 percent in November to 6.5 percent, also the lowest in two years. The bad news is that several large layoffs, including those at the Schwartzman meat packing plant in Albuquerque and at the Sharon Steel copper mine and mill near Silver City, occurred after the estimate reference period in December and therefore will not show up in the unemployment totals until January.

The U. S. economy continued to experience difficulties in December as the nationwide jobless rate (not seasonally adjusted) grew to 8.3 percent, a jump of almost a percentage point since October.

In New Mexico, most major industries reported normal employment movement during December. Construction lost 2,100 jobs as colder weather set in, and the trade industry geared up for the holiday season with a 2,300 job gain. Another large job change was in services with 800 additional jobs spread out among most industry sectors.

Over the year, trade led all industries in growth with 5,500, mostly in eating & drinking establishments, general merchandise and food stores. The only job reduction in the trade industry was -700 in the nationally hard-hit auto dealers and service stations sector. In mining, two almost offsetting job movements continued to be in evidence as robust growth in oil & gas was counterbalanced by reductions in metal mining, much of it in uranium. Manufacturing employment in the State faired poorly in 1981. The industry lost 2,100 jobs over the last 12 months and every manufacturing sector participated in the reduction. The largest losses were posted by lumber, food and apparel.

DECEMBER SUMMARY 1/

	Prel	Revised		Change From	
	Dec 1981	Nov 1981	Dec 1980	Nov 1981	Dec 1980
Civilian Labor Force	561,000	564,100	537,900	-3,100	+23,100
Employment	524,300	525,100	497,100	- 800	+27,200
Unemployment	36,700	39,000	40,800	-2,300	- 4,100
Rate (Actual)	6.5	6.9	7.6		

1/ Estimates of employed persons by place of residence.

NEW MEXICO

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)

(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	Prelim DEC 1981	Revised NOV 1981	Revised DEC 1980	DEC NOV 1981	Change From DEC 1980
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	469,400	468,400	462,800	+1,000	+6,600
MINING	30,500	30,400	30,400	+ 100	+ 100
Metal Mining	9,000	9,000	10,500	0	-1,500
Bituminous Coal, Quarrying and Nonmetallic Mining	5,300	5,300	5,400	0	- 100
Oil and Gas Extraction	16,200	16,100	14,500	+ 100	+1,700
CONSTRUCTION	28,600	30,700	27,700	-2,100	+ 900
MANUFACTURING	31,900	32,000	34,000	- 100	-2,100
Durable Goods	19,300	19,200	20,400	+ 100	-1,100
Lumber and Wood Products	2,100	2,100	2,600	0	- 500
Elec. and Electronic Equipment	3,400	3,300	3,600	+ 100	- 200
Transportation Equipment	3,700	3,700	3,900	0	- 200
Other Durable Goods	10,100	10,100	10,300	0	- 200
Nondurable Goods	12,600	12,800	13,600	- 200	-1,000
Food and Kindred Products	3,800	4,100	4,200	- 300	- 400
Textiles and Apparel	3,400	3,400	3,800	0	- 400
Other Nondurable Goods	5,400	5,300	5,600	+ 100	- 200
TRANSPORTATION and PUBLIC UTILITIES	29,600	29,300	29,200	+ 300	+ 400
Railroad Transportation	3,000	3,000	3,100	0	- 100
Trucking and Warehousing	5,900	5,700	5,600	+ 200	+ 300
Other Transportation	3,800	3,800	3,800	0	0
Communication	7,500	7,400	7,600	+ 100	- 100
Elec., Gas and Sanitary Services	9,400	9,400	9,100	0	+ 300
WHOLESALE and RETAIL TRADE	111,000	108,700	105,500	+2,300	+5,500
Wholesale Trade	22,000	21,900	21,600	+ 100	+ 400
Durable Goods	13,100	13,000	12,900	+ 100	+ 200
Nondurable Goods	8,900	8,900	8,700	0	+ 200
Retail Trade	89,000	86,800	83,900	+2,200	+5,100
General Merchandise Stores	13,100	12,100	11,900	+1,000	+1,200
Food Stores	12,600	12,400	11,900	+ 200	+ 700
Auto Dlrs and Service Stations	11,500	11,500	12,200	0	- 700
Eating and Drinking Places	29,400	29,300	26,300	+ 100	+3,100
Other Retail Trade	22,400	21,500	21,600	+ 900	+ 800
FINANCE, INSURANCE and REAL ESTATE	21,200	21,200	20,900	0	+ 300
Banking	7,400	7,400	7,100	0	+ 300
Ins. Carriers, Agents and Brokers	5,500	5,500	5,500	0	0
Other Finance, Ins. and Real Estate	8,300	8,300	8,300	0	0
SERVICES	90,700	89,900	89,400	+ 800	+1,300
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	9,600	9,600	9,500	0	+ 100
Personal Services	4,700	4,500	4,400	+ 200	+ 300
Business Services	19,700	19,300	18,500	+ 400	+1,200
Health Services	22,400	22,300	21,400	+ 100	+1,000
Social Services	6,900	7,100	9,200	- 200	-2,300
Membership Organizations	4,700	4,800	5,100	- 100	- 400
Other Services	22,700	22,300	21,300	+ 400	+1,400
GOVERNMENT	125,900	126,200	125,700	- 300	+ 200
Federal	28,400	28,700	28,600	- 300	- 200
State 2/	44,700	45,100	44,600	- 400	+ 100
Local	52,800	52,400	52,500	+ 400	+ 300

1/ *Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.*

2/ *Includes other state employees working in New Mexico.*

ALBUQUERQUE AREA (BERNALILLO AND SANDOVAL COUNTIES)

HIGHLIGHTS

The Albuquerque labor market experienced generally favorable changes in December, according to preliminary estimates. Employment rose while unemployment declined substantially during the 30-day period. The unemployment rate dropped over half a percentage point to stand at 6.5 percent, the lowest its been since November, 1979.

The improvement in employment resulted almost entirely from a 1,200 job gain in trade and from an absence, in this difficult national period, of greater than usual reductions among other industries. The decrease in unemployment was due to net gains in employment and to some shrinking in the size of the labor force. Layoffs, including the Schwartsman meatpacking one, occurred after the estimate reference period for December and therefore will not be reflected in employment and unemployment until next month.

The U. S. employment situation continued its recessionary trend in December. Employment (not seasonally adjusted) decreased 861,000 and unemployment rose 337,000. The unemployment rate nationally was up from 7.9 percent in November to 8.3 percent in December, the same period during which Albuquerque's rate dropped significantly. Even when adjusted for seasonal influences, the U. S. labor force figures display the same recessionary trend: employment is down; unemployment and the unemployment rate are up.

Albuquerque nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased 600 in December to a level of 189,000. Changes by industry were 200 or less except for the strong gain of 1,200 jobs in trade already mentioned above. Distributed by sector, these jobs resulted from hiring for the holiday season in general merchandise, apparel and miscellaneous retail trade stores. Substantial additional hiring in eating & drinking places helped push total trade employment beyond normally expected increases.

Over the year, gains in trade and services were partly offset by manufacturing declines, accounting for most of the 2,400 job increase in nonfarm payroll jobs. Twelve-month advances were registered in virtually every trade sector except auto dealers & service stations. Manufacturing lost jobs in almost all durable goods sectors and in apparel and food sectors of nondurables.

DECEMBER SUMMARY 1/

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Dec 1981	Nov 1981	Dec 1980	Nov 1981	Dec 1980
Civilian Labor Force	207,700	208,400	200,000	- 700	+ 7,700
Employment	194,200	193,700	184,100	+ 500	+10,100
Unemployment	13,500	14,700	15,900	-1,200	- 2,400
Rate (Actual)	6.5	7.1	8.0		

1/ Estimates of employed persons by place of residence.